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## Business briefs roundup for April 8, 2008

Wainscott to speak

Joseph Wainscott, the newly appointed director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, will address a breakfast meeting by the Disaster Resistant Community at 7:30 a.m., May 9, in the Centre Downtown.

Wainscott's appointment by Gov. Mitch Daniels Jr. became effective March 17. He had been the state department director of training.

Wainscott's Evansville talk is expected to detail the state's plans to respond within 72 hours following a major earthquake, should one occur in southwestern Indiana.

The breakfast will be sponsored by Vectren Corp. Tickets are \$20 apiece or a table of eight for \$150. Call (812) 425-8401 or contact [drc@swidrcc.org](mailto:drc@swidrcc.org).

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## INSIDE INDIANA BUSINESS column: Report: TRW Expanding in Lafayette

BY GERRY DICK | Tuesday, April 08, 2008 | [No comments posted.](#)

TRW Automotive is apparently set to add 200 jobs to its Lafayette operations. The Lafayette Journal and Courier reports the company is planning to move into a 200,000 square-foot facility being built south of the Tippecanoe County city. TRW already operates a commercial steering systems unit in Lafayette.

### **Governor plans two announcements**

Gov. Mitch Daniels is scheduled to make two economic development announcements today. The governor will join executives from sleep center developer Dormir LLC at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the company's national headquarters. Daniels will then travel to Warsaw to join officials from orthopedics developer Orthopediatrics at 1 p.m.

### **Crawfordsville firm announces rebranding**

The former Wet Friction business of Raytech Corporation has been rebranded as Friction Holdings. The company will continue to develop and manufacture original transmission and wet-wheel brake components. Daniel Gaston has been named the rebranded firm's president and chief executive officer.

### **Anderson Seeking to raise utility rates**

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission next week will hold a formal public field hearing on the city of Anderson's request for an increase in its municipal electric utility's rates and charges. The hearing is scheduled for 5 p.m. in the Anderson City Office Building. The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor will host an information meeting prior to the public hearing.

### **Governor names new state fire marshal**

Gov. Mitch Daniels has appointed James Greeson as the next Indiana State Fire Marshal and leader of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety. Greeson succeeds Roger Johnson, who resigned March 24. Greeson will begin his new duties later this month or in early May.

### **IRS offer tax tips to Hoosiers**

The Internal Revenue Service is reminding Hoosiers that the April 15 tax deadline is less than two weeks away. Officials say taxpayers should remember that they must file in order to be eligible for an Economic Stimulus Payment. The IRS has also opened free tax help sites across the state.

### **Mayor hosts Disability Networking Day**

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and Indianapolis Private Industry Council will host Disability Networking Day today. The event will offer 33 college students with disabilities to job-shadow employees at Indianapolis workplaces. The event will be held at the Conrad Hotel in downtown Indianapolis.

More business news at [www.IndisideIndianaBusiness.com](http://www.IndisideIndianaBusiness.com). Story ideas at [newsletter@growindiana.net](mailto:newsletter@growindiana.net)

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April 7, 2008

## Indy fire chief to head Homeland Security unit

*Star report*

Indianapolis Fire Chief James Greeson was named head of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Division of Fire and Building Safety today.

Greeson has been IFD chief since 2004 and the administration of former Mayor Bart Peterson.

Mayor Greg Ballard said last month that he would conduct a nationwide search for a new head of the department.

Greeson plans to start the new job by early May.

He replaces Roger Johnson, who left last month and was credited with building a statewide fire training system and increasing the funding for instruction programs.

"It would be hard to find a state employee who has worked harder than Roger Johnson the last three years," Gov. Mitch Daniels said in a news release today. "The fire academy and standardized training firefighters sought for so long is largely his doing."

Greeson joined IFD in 1970 and moved up through the ranks as lieutenant, captain and battalion chief, and later as deputy chief of operations and deputy chief of administration.

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April 8, 2008

## Overtime strangling IFD budget

### Ambulance fees might jump in an effort to rein in costs

*By Brendan O'Shaughnessy  
brendan.oshaughnessy@indystar.com*

The cost of an ambulance ride would increase under a plan to keep the Indianapolis Fire Department within budget in the face of surging overtime costs.

So far this year, the department has spent about double the whole year's overtime budget -- each month. That's just one of a host of problems that has Mayor Greg Ballard pushing for an overhaul of the entire department. The agency faces several high-profile discrimination lawsuits, and word came Monday that its chief is leaving to become state fire marshal.

IFD plans to raise ambulance fees -- how much has not been decided -- delay maintenance on some equipment and trim some outreach programs that promote fire safety. Those efforts are expected to save more than \$1 million.

"We won't cut muscle or quality of service," Public Safety Director Scott Newman said.

The 2008 budget for overtime is \$159,000. In the first three months, the department spent about \$942,000, or an average of \$314,000 per month. That pace is faster than last year, when IFD spent \$3.3 million on overtime.

The plan was to use money saved from positions left vacant to pay for overtime.

"This budget wasn't realistic," said Newman, who was appointed by the mayor. "It flies in the face of public accountability, and I think it's misleading to the public."

Newman said the bottom line is that the department must shift up to \$1.5 million from other areas to its overtime costs.

Some help is on the way. A recruiting class of 26 rookies starting in late spring will help cut down on overtime, according to Fire Chief James Greeson.

Overtime in the Fire Department is driven by national standards for staffing that are part of IFD's contract with union firefighters. When someone is sick or on vacation, the department must call on another firefighter and offer overtime to properly staff most fire engines.

The IFD merger last year with the Washington and Warren township fire departments was promoted by then-Mayor Bart Peterson as a move that would save on overtime and other costs.

Overtime from staff in sworn positions dropped by about \$65,000 last year.

Yet IFD saw civilian overtime increase more than sixfold, to \$839,000, after it took over ambulance services for Warren and Washington townships. Newman said ambulance fees range from \$365 to \$625 for different levels of care.

IFD planned as if the township ambulance services would merge with Wishard Health Services, Greeson said, which would have allowed a reduction in employees.

"Because that didn't occur," Greeson said, "we're trying to staff this department for 980, and we're budgeted for 949. That's driving the overtime, plain and simple."

When a team of volunteers sized up 23 agencies in city-county government as Ballard prepared to take office, the Fire Department was among the four most troubled outfits.

The report, overseen by Barnes & Thornburg attorney Joe Loftus, was a way to identify what areas demanded the new administration's attention, Loftus said. The overtime headaches prove the scrutiny was merited, he said.

Ballard, who took office in January, said he recognizes the department's financial problems.

"People need to understand that there are obligations that weren't budgeted for," he said of the 2008 budget. "I think most of the department heads were shut out of the budget process. That will change."

Ballard has promised to cut the city-county budget by \$70 million within three years.

Bob Clifford, the former city controller who crafted the budget for Peterson, a Democrat, disagreed with the suggestion that his office dictated the 2008 budget to the Fire Department and other city agencies.

He said the Fire Department always managed its own overtime budget with money from vacant positions and that he did not change its request.

The department needs to manage vacation schedules better to keep overtime from getting out of control in the summer, Clifford said. He said the Ballard administration is now realizing how tight the city budget is.

"I have no sympathy for them," Clifford said of the new Republican administration. "They said they could cut millions from the budget, so what's the problem?"

Ballard said the budget crunch has made fire officials more cautious about pursuing new mergers with several townships struggling with debt. Ballard asked the state to merge all the township fire departments, but he said he knew that couldn't happen right away.

"I was thinking more like 2010 or 2011," he said. "In the long term, it's inevitable. I think we'll see some savings but also some short-term costs."

For now, Greeson said, there will be some tough choices.

Delaying maintenance and cutting education programs are undesirable options because that can lead to spending more money later, he said. But a shift of resources will keep the department afloat in the short term.

"If there are five station roofs that need to be replaced," Greeson said, "we have to prioritize them and do some next year."

Tom Hanify, an IFD firefighter and the state union president, said the public need not worry about the department's ability to contain fires and save lives.

"The problem isn't the fire service; it's the administration," Hanify said. "The firefighters on the streets consistently meet the highest standards in the nation."

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April 8, 2008

## Fire chief moving to state post

Gov. Mitch Daniels announced Monday that Indianapolis Fire Chief James Greeson will become the new state fire marshal.

Greeson, who rose through the ranks to chief in 2004 after joining the Indianapolis Fire Department in 1970, will lead the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Division of Fire and Building Safety.

Last month, Mayor Greg Ballard said he intends to change a city ordinance to allow a national search for a new fire chief. Ballard said he was happy with Greeson's leadership and expected him to be a candidate.

The national search, Greeson said, did not prompt his move, which began months ago when he consulted with state officials about fire training and homeland security.

"It was a tough decision," Greeson said. "Two-thirds of my life was with the Indianapolis Fire Department, but this was an opportunity to do something different."

Greeson, paid \$93,000 last year, plans to start his new job next month.

He succeeds Roger Johnson, who left last month. Johnson was credited with building a statewide fire training system and increasing the funding for instruction. He was paid \$85,000 last year.

Greeson said his challenge will be to learn about the state's many volunteer firefighter groups because his experience is limited to professional firefighting. He said the new IFD chief will need to have a good understanding of budgets and a long-term plan to improve the department's finances.

--Brendan O'Shaughnessy

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Indianapolis, Ind. -- Governor Mitch Daniels today announced the appointment of James L. Greeson as the Indiana State Fire Marshal. Greeson, of Indianapolis, will lead the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Division of Fire and Building Safety.

Greeson's firefighting career has been with the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD), where he has served as IFD chief since 2004 before resigning from the post. Previously, he spent several years in the suppression division and earned several merit ranks.

Greeson will replace Roger Johnson, who left the administration effective March 24. Johnson assisted in the governor's efforts to create the first statewide fire training system in the state's history and increase the funding for materials and instruction programs.

"It would be hard to find a state employee who has worked harder than Roger Johnson the last three years," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "The fire academy and standardized training firefighters sought for so long is largely his doing."

Greeson joined the IFD in 1970, advancing during his career to the merit positions of lieutenant, captain and battalion chief. Other key positions he has served in include deputy chief, deputy chief of operations and deputy chief of administration.

In addition to IFD, he has served on organizational committees and boards with the 2004 World Swimming Championships, IFD Promotion Process Committee, 2001 World Police and Fire Games, Indiana Public Safety Training Institute, Greater Indianapolis Firefighters Credit Union and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Professional Firefighters Union Local 416.

The IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety investigates suspicious fires, promotes prevention, administers building plan review, enforces fire and building safety codes in all public buildings, regulates and coordinates emergency services, emergency medical services and hazardous material response and oversees and conducts inspections of child care facilities, boilers and pressure vessels, elevators and amusements.

Greeson will start as fire marshal later this month or in early May.

Source: Office of Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels

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## Source: IFD Chief To Replace State Fire Marshal

### *James Greeson To Head State Fire Marshal's Office*

POSTED: 5:14 pm EDT April 5, 2008

UPDATED: 5:33 pm EDT April 5, 2008

**INDIANAPOLIS --** Indiana's state fire marshal will leave that position and be replaced by the current chief of the Indianapolis Fire Department, 6News reported Saturday.

A source confirmed to 6News that Roger Johnson will step down as the state fire marshal to take a job with Gov. Mitch Daniels' reelection campaign, and that IFD Chief James Greeson has been chosen as his successor.

Both men told 6News that they could not confirm the changes, but that a "major announcement" was expected Monday.

Johnson was named to the fire marshal's position in December 2004, shortly before Daniels took office.

He had previously spent more than 40 years as a firefighter, instructor and fire chief in several Indiana communities, and served 18 years as a firefighter at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway during the Indianapolis 500.

Greeson was named chief of the Indianapolis Fire Department by then-Mayor Bart Peterson.

His future with IFD was in doubt after Republican Greg Ballard defeated Peterson in the 2007 mayoral election.

Ballard said last month he planned a nationwide search to find the person he believed should lead the city's fire department.

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## Governor Confirms Greeson To Be State Fire Marshal

### *Indianapolis Fire Chief Replaces Roger Johnson*

POSTED: 12:38 pm EDT April 7, 2008

**INDIANAPOLIS --** Gov. Mitch Daniels on Monday confirmed the appointment of Indianapolis Fire Department Chief James Greeson as Indiana State Fire Marshal.

6News and TheIndyChannel.com first reported the move on Saturday.

Greeson had been chief of IFD since 2004 after joining the department in 1970.

He replaces Roger Johnson, who left the post in late March to take a job in Daniels' campaign for reelection.

"It would be hard to find a state employee who has worked harder than Roger Johnson the last three years," Daniels said. "The fire academy and standardized training firefighters sought for so long is largely his doing."

Greeson is expected to begin working in his new role later this month or early next month. His future with IFD was in doubt after Republican Greg Ballard defeated Peterson in the 2007 mayoral election. Ballard said last month he planned a nationwide search to find the person he believed should lead the city's fire department.

#### **Previous Stories:**

- April 5, 2008: [Source: IFD Chief To Replace State Fire Marshal](#)

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#### **Former IFD Chief Named State Fire Marshal**

By Devon Scott  
4/7/2008

Former Indianapolis Fire Chief Jim Greeson is the new State Fire Marshal.

Greeson was named to the job Monday by Governor Mitch Daniels. Greeson had been IFD Chief since 2004.

Greeson replaced Roger Johnson, who left the post last month. Johnson is credited with building a statewide fire safety training network.

Greeson will oversee the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Division of Fire and Building Safety.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard says he will conduct a nationwide search for Greeson's replacement.

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## Demolished Avon home will help train firefighters during annual conference

Updated: April 5, 2008 07:42 PM EDT



AVON, Ind. (WISH) - Firefighters demolished a house in Avon Saturday. The destruction is the beginning of a week long conference to help train firefighters from across the globe.

The event is called the Fire Department Instructors Conference. Every year 30,000 men and women come to Indianapolis to become better firefighters.

"I was a firefighter in New York City for 26 years," John O'Connell said.

Now O'Connell helps train firefighters in the proper search and rescue techniques.

"I've been to literally dozens of building collapses and I've been lucky enough to be help rescue different people in different ones," O'Connell said.

The most well known rescue he was involved in was 9/11. John spent three straight months at ground zero helping search for victims.

Now he's in Indianapolis along with thousands of other firefighters from all across the world.

"We have people coming from Korea, Singapore, Japan, Australia, France, Italy. You can't pick a corner of the world that we don't have someone coming," Chief Bobby Halton with the Fire Department Instructors Conference said.

With an event this large there are obviously lots of preparations. One of the first steps was create a training exercise at an Avon home.

"It's very difficult to get a building like this and surgically cut it up and alter it and then knock it down the way that you need," O'Connell said

In just a matter of moments, it was demolished. Under all of the rubble there are mannequins that the trainees will have to find.

Some Indianapolis firefighters say they are often overlooked when people talk about larger fire departments. They say this conference is a way to showcase the city they love and the city they help protect.

"Having been born and raised here and see the city and the downtown grow the way it's grown over the years is really quite rewarding for me and all of the firefighters of our community," Indiana Task Force One Commander Bill Brown said.

This year's Fire Department Instructors Conference will be the last conference held at the RCA dome before it's torn down.

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## IFD faces budget, staffing woes

Updated: April 8, 2008 07:11 PM EDT



IFD Chief James Greeson

[Sandra Chapman](#)/Eyewitness News

Marion County - The Indianapolis Fire Department is facing budget problems and doesn't have enough money to cover overtime costs. Now a city official says the overtime pay problem is much deeper and much older. The agency's chief, meantime, prepares to move onto a top state level job.

In 2004 Chief James Greeson took over at IFD. Four years later, he's been tapped to take on Indiana's top fire job as the State Fire Marshal.



Public Safety Director Scott Newman

"I'm very fortunate and honored," said Greeson of his new state appointment. "It's a tough choice to leave something that you're part of - that's your family that you love, it's in your blood," he said affectionately of IFD.

With just weeks to go on his 38-year career at IFD, the chief says he's leaving on solid ground. But he doesn't deny leaving behind pressing unfinished business.

"With the retirements, with the mergers there comes the challenges of staffing. There comes the challenges of budgeting," Greeson told Eyewitness News.

While Greeson says city fire services will not diminish, he does acknowledge the need for more manpower. According to Greeson, over the last three years, the department has lost 160 firefighters. And that's just from retirement.

The department is hiring. In 2006 it added 50-plus new recruits. Last year they hired 43 and this spring IFD will bring in another class of 26. But there are still 40 unfilled positions.

"You have firefighters now working more hours because they're turning around working all the overtime. It's a safety issue," explained the departing Chief.

Public Safety Director Scott Newman questions the previous administration's budget, which included just \$100,000 for overtime. That's well below the \$3.4 million they're expecting.

"Is it too much? Yes. Can it be managed? Yes. Will recruits be part of the answer? Yes. But is that the nature of the budget shortfall? No. The nature of the budget shortfall is the budget which was too low," said Newman. "The only tragedy is that the budget was not real and never was real. And they had to plan all along to seek a bailout later in the year," he charged of the Bart Peterson administration.

Newman will also lead the search for a new chief.

The city recently settled a sex discrimination case for allegedly failing to promote qualified women.

Greeson says there are as many as four female merit captains eligible to apply for his post.

"I think any of them are qualified and I think they should apply if they want to seek this position," he said.

Mayor Greg Ballard is expected to announce a search team for a new chief of police on Wednesday.

Eyewitness News was not able to contact members of the previous city administration regarding Newman's claims late Tuesday afternoon.

Newman says he will continue working with IFD to figure out ways to tighten the budget and pay the necessary overtime.

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## **Governor appoints James Greeson as new state fire marshal**

*Associated Press - April 7, 2008 1:24 PM ET*

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Gov. Mitch Daniels has named James L. Greeson as the new Indiana State Fire Marshal.

He replaces Roger Johnson, who left the administration last month.

Greeson is a former chief of the Indianapolis Fire Department. He joined the department in 1970. Greeson will lead the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety.

He will start his new job later this month or in early May.

Daniels credited Johnson with helping to create the first statewide fire training system.

Before becoming fire marshal, Johnson was a firefighter in the Columbus area for more than 40 years.

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Published April 05, 2008 05:56 pm - SHOALS, Ind. — Police say an elderly southern Indiana man has drowned after driving into floodwaters while he was on his way to a doctor's appointment.

## **5:54 p.m.: S. Ind. man drowns in flood waters**

**The Associated Press**

SHOALS, Ind. — Police say an elderly southern Indiana man has drowned after driving into floodwaters while he was on his way to a doctor's appointment.

The body of 85-year-old Woodrow W. Rogers of the Martin County town of Shoals was pulled from a flooded area near the Lost River about 40 miles south of Bloomington.

Police say Rogers left his home for a doctor's appointment late Monday morning but never arrived. His body was found Wednesday about 70 feet away from his car in 4 1/2 feet of water.

Rogers' death was ruled an accidental drowning.

State Conservation officers speculate that Rogers may have attempted to wade out of the floodwaters but couldn't make it to shore and succumbed to hypothermia in the cold waters.

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## **State urges southern Indiana flood victims to report damage**

Posted: April 9, 2008 12:32 PM EDT

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** -- The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is urging southern Indiana residents to report damage from flooding that occurred in late March.

Spokesman John Erickson says the information will be used to determine what kind of federal aid the state can request for the area.

The state wants to know about structural damage to homes and loss of personal property, as well as business losses.

Those wishing to report damage may call 866-210-1925, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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[Return to Flooding](#)



## State urges southern Indiana flood victims to report damage

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